

REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP IN SWITZERLAND

This information sheet is for American citizens who wish to enter into a registered partnership in Switzerland. Although we believe the information below to be accurate, the only definitive statement of requirements for registered partnership between persons of the same sex is that given by the Swiss civil registrar in the town or city where you wish to register your partnership.

Swiss law precludes a consular officer from registering partnerships. The registration of partnership in Switzerland is exclusively a function of the Swiss civil authorities, i.e. the civil registrar.

I. Swiss Documentary Requirements for All Americans

1. Birth Certificate. You must have a certified copy of your birth certificate, translated into German/French/Italian, **issued within the last six months** (original birth certificate is not accepted). It must show your full name, date and place of birth, and the full names of your parents, including your mother's maiden name. If you do not have a copy of your birth certificate, check out www.vitalrec.com to find out how to obtain a duplicate.
2. U.S. passport. A valid passport is required, except for military personnel.
3. Affidavit. Each American must execute an affidavit before a U.S. consular officer or a notary public in the United States, in which he/she states under oath that he/she is legally free to enter into a registered partnership. You should present your U.S. passport and, if applicable, evidence of termination of previous marriage(s)/registered partnership(s). You can apply for the affidavit at the Embassy in Bern or the Consular Agencies in Geneva and Zurich. The cost is US \$50.00 or the equivalent in Swiss Francs.

All of the required documents must be presented at the time of application.

II. Additional Documents for Some Americans

4. Military or civilian employees of the Armed Forces
 - a) A military ID card is required; b) Written authorization to enter into a registered partnership issued by the commanding officer must be presented.
5. Divorced or widowed. Divorced or widowed persons must present a certified copy of the divorce decree or death certificate. If divorced, the applicant must show that the divorce is legally effective in his/her state of domicile in the United States. The divorce decree must state the date it became effective, that is, the final decree, not the interlocutory decree. In addition, a certificate of the previous marriage may be required.
6. Under Age. A written statement of consent by the parents signed before a notary public is required. The determination if you are under age will be based on the laws of the state of domicile in the United States. Persons under 18 years of age cannot enter into a registered partnership in Switzerland. This is Swiss law.

III. General Information

You should contact the civil registrar in the city or town where you wish to register your partnership for information concerning fees, witnesses and the translation of documents. One of the two partners must hold Swiss nationality or be resident in Switzerland. The waiting period after the documents are submitted to the civil registrar may be several weeks. The addresses of the main civil registrars' offices are:

Zivilstandsamt
Rittergasse 11
4051 Basel
Tel 061/267 95 90
Fax 061/267 67 49
www.zivilstandsamt.bs.ch
E-Mail: zva@bs.ch

Zivilstandsamt
Laupenstrasse 18A
3008 Bern
Tel 031/635 42 00
Fax 031/635 42 01
E-Mail: za-bern@pom.be.ch

Etat civil
rue de la Mairie 37
1207 Genève
Tel 022/418 66 50
Fax 022/418 66 51
E-Mail: webmaster@ville-ge.ch

Etat civil
rue Caroline 2
1003 Lausanne
Tel 021/316 38 57
Fax 021/316 38 69
E-mail: centre.etatcivil@vd.ch

Ufficio dello Stato Civile
Palazzo Civico
Piazza Riforma
6900 Lugano
Tel 058/866 70 92
Fax 058/866 70 92
E-Mail: di-usc.lugano@ti.ch

Zivilstandsamt
Obergrundstrasse 1
6003 Luzern
Tel 041/208 82 31
Fax 041/208 85 00
www.stadtluzern.ch
E-Mail: za@stadtluzern.ch

Zivilstandsamt Stadthaus
Stadthausquai 17
8001 Zurich
Tel 044/412 31 50
Fax 044/212 10 15
www.stadt-zuerich.ch

INFORMATION ON CONSULAR OFFICES IN SWITZERLAND

BERN

Sulgeneckstrasse 19, 3007 Bern

Tel. 031/357 70 11 (between 14:00 and 16:00. Emergency information is available at this number after hours.)

Fax 031/357 72 80

E-mail: Bernacs@state.gov

Counter service hours of the American Citizen Services section: Monday through Friday 09:00 – 11:30. **Please note the new on-line appointment system. For information, visit www.bern.usembassy.gov.**

GENEVA

rue Versonnex 7, 1207 Geneva

Tel. 022/840 51 60

Fax 022/840 51 62

E-mail: Geneva-CA@state.gov

Telephone and counter service hours: Monday through Friday from 10:00 – 13:00

Please send an e-mail or telephone for an appointment.

ZURICH

Dufourstrasse 101, 8008 Zurich

Tel. 043/499 29 60

Fax 043/499 29 61

E-mail: Zurich-CA@state.gov

Telephone and counter service hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 - 13:00

Please send an e-mail or telephone for an appointment.

All three offices are closed on American and local holidays.

<http://bern.usembassy.gov>